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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
AIRGRAM

POL 23- GUAT

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HANDLING INDICATOR

TO : Department of State

INFO : CINCSO FOR POLAD, Amembassies TEGUCIGALPA, SAN SALVADOR, MANAGUA, SAN JOSE, DOD

FROM : Amembassy GUATEMALA

DATE: October 15, 1967

SUBJECT: Weekly Internal Security Report: October 6-12, 1967 DEPARTMENT OF STATE

REF :

Summary and Comment

1. It was a fairly uninteresting week from an internal security standpoint with a somewhat lighter than usual scattering of politically motivated shootings, bombings, kidnappings and assassinated bodies located. The overall level is still quite high, however, which continues to be a source of concern to many segments of the populace.

2. There were more shootings than any other type of incident and 4 people were killed. The Department of Escuintla was the scene of several incidents and in Nueva Concepcion an Evangelical pastor was shot down in cold blood in his home by an armed band. A similar attempt on a Comisionado Militar in the same town failed as he recognized the danger and fled out the back door. Elsewhere in the Department, in Santa Ana Mixtán a heavily armed group of men entered the town at night in several vehicles, fired off their weapons for about 10 minutes, according to reports, and left leaving behind a dead unidentified body.

3. Other activity included the kidnapping of a father and son in Morales, Department of Izabal, an abortive attempt to abduct a policeman in the capital, and 2 hand grenades thrown into the garden of millionaire inveterate rightist plotter Roberto Alejos.

4. The number of bodies of assassination victims was quite low--there were only 5--one belonged to the assistant director of the Judicial Police.

Enclosure: List of Incidents

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REASON(S)

ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS

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Drafted by:

POL:WNewlin:cam:10/13/67

Clearances:

POL-1:MHawkins

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OCT 17 1967

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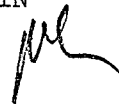
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5. The security forces had one clash with presumed insurgents in Retalhuleu which resulted in one policeman and one guerrilla dead and they made several arrests.

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Enclosure

LIST OF INCIDENTS

October
1967

- 4 - Group of unknown men shot to death Matilde Antonio Romero Sanchinelli in his home in Ipala, Dept. Chiquimula. Their motive is unknown.
- 5 - Father and son kidnapped by masked submachine-armed group in Morales, Izabal. They were identified as Bernardo Solorzano Ortega, 63, and Bernardo Salazar, 20. According to families, they were both apolitical.
- 6 - Three members of band of thieves who held up houses and small shops with sub-machineguns arrested by National Police in capital.
- 6 - Body of José Mena Zea, assistant to chief of Judicial Police Estuardo Garcia Gomez, found dead of unknown causes on road to San Salvador, Dept. Guatemala. An investigation is underway.
- 6 - Group of armed men entered town of Santa Ana Mixtán, Dept. Escuintla, in middle of night and fired off weapons for about 10 minutes. After they left townspeople (who had remained hidden during incident) found unidentified body (presumably not of local person) with 3 bullet holes. Identity of band unknown.
- 6 - Employee of government of Tecún Umán, Dept. San Marco, escaped death when he discovered dynamite stick wired to his car before it could explode. No political motive known.
- 7 - Army Lieutenant and a civilian badly wounded by gunfire on Atlantic Highway in the Dept. Guatemala. Details as to causes lacking.
- O/A 7 - Three teachers in Tecún Umán fired on by unknown assailants. They were not wounded. According to press most teachers in area have been threatened by subversive groups.
- 8 - Attempt made in capital to kidnap National Police agent foiled by policeman, Manuel Ramirez Munguía, who fought back causing attackers to flee. Their identity or motive unknown.
- 9 - Body of unidentified man found shot between Km 34 and 35 on Roosevelt Highway. No political motive known.

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- 9 - Police in Dept. San Marcos captured Florencio Vicente Santos Méndez, accused of demanding extortion money in the name of an unnamed subversive organization.
- 10 - Band armed with submachine guns and side arms raided house in aldea Colorada, Municipality of Esquipulas, Dept. Chiquimula. Stole money and fled.
- 10 - Three shot and tortured unidentified bodies found in Senishac, Dept. El Quiché. No political motive known.
- 10 - Three unknown men entered house of Evangelical pastor Julio Óliva Garrido in Nuevo Concepción, Dept. Escuintla, shot and killed him, and wounded his minor son. No political motive known.
- 10 - Presumed guerrilla and military policeman killed in clash in San Andrés Villa Seca, Dept. Retalhuleu. Police were attacked by band of 5 machine gun-armed men as both groups got off a bus, but it is not clear if attack was planned or occurred on the spur of the moment.

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